



## Sessional Worker

Jamie's Farm Lewes (East Sussex, BN7 3QL)

Jamie's Farm exists to transform the lives of vulnerable children in challenging urban schools by providing our unique combination of 'farming, family and therapy'. Having expanded onto a second site in Hereford in 2014 and third site in Monmouth in 2018 and proven that our model is scalable, we have recently expanded onto a fourth site to enable us to reach an extra 450 children a year. We are seeking a passionate and professional educator with proven ability to build positive relationships with children and staff, in order to play a crucial role in ensuring that all our young Jamie's Farmers are able to gain the transformative experience that they deserve.

### About Jamie's Farm

Jamie's Farm helps children to flourish at home, in education and in the community through an intensive week-long immersion in rural life. We provide young people with a tailored range of activities designed to offer each an opportunity for achievement, as well as a supportive family environment that encourages them to push themselves out of their comfort zone. Our therapeutic input makes use of individual and group sessions to allow pupils to reflect on their lives on the farm and back home, in order to draw out tangible strategies for improvements to be realised when they return. By working with teachers and committing to follow up visits in school, we aim to make changes catalysed by Jamie's Farm last; internal and external evaluation has proven this so.

The initial spark for the charity came from Jamie Feilden, who was teaching in a Croydon comprehensive school when he began taking inner-city pupils back to his home farm in Wiltshire. Ten years on, we welcome 500 young people each year to our beautiful 14<sup>th</sup> Century Cotswold farmhouse and purposely converted barn. Now, building on the charity's firm financial foundations, we are expanding the charity, in order that greater numbers of young people can benefit from the transformational experience we aim to offer.

Our growth to our fourth site in April 2019 was a crucial step in our development. By 2020, we aim to be working with 2000 young people a year, across five sites. This would represent a significant proportion of the 30,500 vulnerable young people who are most in need of our intervention. Consequently, we would be significantly contributing to tackling the grave problem of social and academic exclusion on a national scale.

However, this grand ambition will only be successful if we can maintain the quality of our intervention, even in the midst of this expansion. The fourth site in Lewes is already proving to be a wonderful environment within which to recreate the magic of Jamie's Farm, and we have recruited a committed and friendly team to ensure



the values of Jamie's Farm are lived out here. They have established a purposeful, welcoming, nurturing environment that is so conducive to enabling pupils to see themselves in a new light. While Jamie's Farm is not a franchise model and each farm fits into a broader Jamie's Farm family, we know that the quality of our staff defines us as an organisation and leads directly to the impact we achieve.

### Position Summary

The Sessional Worker will need to demonstrate their passion for supporting vulnerable young people through purposeful and therapeutic work in our rural setting. We are relatively open as to the precise activity or work that you may wish to undertake alongside our children. Currently, we have horse work; cooking; farming; art and log-chopping specialists as part of our team already; with this recruitment, we would be looking to increase the repertoire of sessions we offer to the children. Potentially you could offer some specialist carpentry or craft activity? Or otherwise, you may be a 'generalist' who could fill in with all the other sessions, when other members of staff are undertaking other jobs. Certainly, if you were successful, you would be required to lead walks and evening activities, as well as breakfasts or feeding rounds.

We need an individual who demonstrates our core Jamie's Farm values – Positivity; Passion; Generosity; Collaboration and Professionalism – while working in a genuinely authentic and empathic way. They need to build outstanding relationships with our visiting pupils, and enable the children to learn about themselves through the joyful prism of practical work – real jobs, with real outcomes.

### Major responsibilities

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

1. Running therapeutic and purposeful sessions for up to four visits a month, potentially including:
  - Two sessions in the mornings and afternoons of both Tuesdays and Thursdays, and one session on the Wednesday mornings;
  - Depending on the timetable, other sessions in the day, including -
    - Leading walks;
    - Leading feeding rounds or breakfasts;
    - Leading evening sessions including the preparation of dinners and co-ordinating evening games;
  - participation in, and leading of Jamie's Farm group meetings and evening activities – e.g. group games; bonfires or film nights.
2. Other major responsibilities include:
  - to offer ad hoc logistical and site management responsibilities as required;
  - to attend charity Away Days, the Lewes Open Day and other specific training as required – throughout the country.

### Working hours

- The role of Sessional Worker requires and enables **flexibility** from both employer and employee.
- As a small team, having individuals willing to offer flexibility in the number and precise timing of hours is very useful, as it means that we have a level of resilience that otherwise – as a small charity – we wouldn't be able to afford.
- A regular working week could be the following (**NB:** these are subject to change and may be adapted depending on the successful candidate's needs):
  - Tuesday: 10am – 10pm (12 hours)

- Wednesday: 8am – 2pm (6 hours)
- Thursday: 1pm – 6.30pm (5.5 hours)
- Friday: 8am – 1pm (5 hours)
- This represents up to 30 hours a week **when visiting children are on site** (up to 40 weeks a year). These hours will generally be spread over four days.
- We will also offer up to 15 hours of work for up to six 'Training Weeks' through the year, when our Lewes team may join our other teams to work on their practice and undertake CPD.

### Education and Experience:

- Experience working in a social work, therapeutic community or educational setting;
- Experience working with vulnerable children an advantage;
- Clean driving licence.

### Knowledge, Skills, Abilities:

- Exceptional communication, teamwork and organisational skills;
- Ability to develop strong relationships with diverse individuals and organisations, and to influence and motivate others;
- Enthusiasm for the chance to be an integral part of our new farm;
- Interest and enthusiasm for living and working in a rural setting;
- Interest in the benefits of education beyond the classroom, especially for vulnerable groups;
- Ability to contribute to wider vision, strategy and goals of an ambitious, professional and unique charity;
- Strong work ethic and ability to share this with children.

### Benefits:

- £12-13 per hour depending on experience;
- Up to 40 weeks of work a year, known well in advance;
- Welcoming, vibrant team environment.

### How to apply:

- **Deadline: 5pm, Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July;**
- Please send CV and covering letter to [toby@jamiesfarm.org.uk](mailto:toby@jamiesfarm.org.uk);
- We will be shortlisting during the week of the 8<sup>th</sup> July, and invite successful candidates for the first round interview taking place on 22<sup>nd</sup> July at Jamie's Farm Lewes (BN7 3QL);
- Second round interview will take place during the week commencing 5<sup>th</sup> August, and the successful candidate will be confirmed that week;
- Ideally the new post holder will start w/c 9<sup>th</sup> September and join for our all staff away days 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> September near Brecon.

*Due to the nature of our work with young people, on acceptance of offer, all Jamie's Farm employees are subject to an enhanced DBS check in accordance with our Safeguarding Policy.*

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